

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, between the title and the heading "**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**", insert

#### **--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This is a divisional application of application Serial No. 10/194,297, filed July 15, 2002, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes.—

Page 33, delete the ABSTRACT in its entirety.

Page 33, please add the following new ABSTRACT:

An output buffer circuit includes first and second inverters connected to an input terminal for outputting signals having a slow rise up and fall down characteristic; a pull up control circuit that pulls up an output voltage of the first inverter and stops the pull up operation based on a level of the output signal of the first inverter; and a pull down control circuit that pulls down an output voltage of the second inverter and stops the pull down operation based on a level of the output signal of the second inverter. A first output transistor has a source connected to a first power source, a drain connected to the output terminal and a gate connected to the first inverter. A second output

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transistor has a source connected to a second power source, a drain connected to the output terminal and a gate connected to the second inverter.